

Issues of Concern

Protect Our Deer & Elk!

Chronic Wasting Disease, a fatal disease that affects deer and elk, has been detected in wild herds in eleven states. To prevent the introduction of Chronic Wasting Disease into California, the DFG has imposed tight restrictions on the importation of hunter-harvested deer and elk into California.

“No Skull, No Backbone”

When returning home with deer and elk harvested out of state, hunters must follow California’s strict regulations to avoid bringing CWD into our state. The California regulations can be summarized in one phrase: “No skull, no backbone.”

Follow Other States’ CWD Regulations

If you will be hunting out of state in a known CWD endemic area, you should receive information at the time you receive your hunting tag(s) regarding disposal of the carcass remains and mandatory or voluntary CWD testing.

Use Caution When Handling Game

- Wear rubber gloves when field dressing carcasses;
- Bone out meat from the animal;
- Minimize the handling of brain and spinal cord, eyes, spleen, and lymph nodes and avoid consuming these tissues;
- Wash hands and instruments thoroughly after field dressing is completed.

California’s regulation restricting the importation of hunter-harvested deer and elk reads as follows:

“No hunter harvested deer or elk (*cervid*) carcass or parts of cervid carcass shall be imported into the State, except for the following body parts:

- boned-out meat and commercially processed cuts of meat.
- portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached.
- hides with no heads attached.
- clean skull plates (no meat or tissue attached) with antlers attached.
- antlers with no meat or tissue attached.
- finished taxidermy heads.
- upper canine teeth (buglers, whistlers, ivories).” T-14 712.

Get the Lead Out of Condor Range

If you hunt in California condor range, you are being asked to get the lead out. Following reports that lead ammunition is contributing to the high lead levels documented in some wild condors, the DFG and other conservation groups are asking hunters in condor range (parts of the counties of Tulare, Kern, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, and San Benito) to remove lead from the area by following a



Brown shading, above, depicts the range of the endangered California condor.

few simple steps:

- Retrieve all killed animals (including coyotes and small game) from the field, or
- Hide carcasses or gut piles by burying them, covering them with brush or rocks, or placing them in an inaccessible area, or
- Remove bullets and surrounding impacted flesh when leaving carcasses or gut piles in the field, or
- Use lead-free ammunition, in which case none of the above is needed.

Do You Hunt In Another State?

If you do, you must declare any legally taken and possessed game or fish brought back into California. Fish and Game Code Section 2353 requires that any birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, or amphibian legally taken and possessed in another state, may be possessed in California after submitting a Declaration For Entry form. Be aware that there may be restrictions on certain species, such as mountain lions (FGC 4800), which are specifically excluded from possession in California by other laws.

To avoid delays when returning to California, it is recommended that you have this form prior to your out-of-state hunt and have it filled out prior to re-entering California. For instructions and a printable copy of the Declaration For Entry form go the following Web address:

www.fgc.ca.gov/html/declaration.html